

Application No.: 09/619,699

Docket No.: 20162-00561-US

The methods defined in claims 20-23 may be distinct from the method defined in claims 1-19, but each of claims 24-27 is dependent from any one of claims 4, 12, 15-19 and, therefore, they should be examined in the present application provided that each of the claims 24-27 excludes the dependency from 20.

Claim 28 is directed to a participant device which should be employed in the system which is implemented by the method of claim 1.

Claim 29 particularly implements the participant device in claim 4.

Claim 30 performs the processing step (a-2) in claim 11.

Claim 31 performs the processing step (a-1) in claim 11.

Claim 32 performs the processing steps (a-2), (a-3) in claim 12.

Claim 33 corresponds to claim 20 and should be cancelled.

Claim 34 performs the processing steps (a-1), (c-2) in claim 15.

Claim 35 performs the processing steps (b-4), (b-5) in claim 19.

Claim 36 performs the processing of claim 26.

Claim 37 is directed to a server device which is employed for the processing by the server device in claim 1.

Claim 38 performs processing of claim 8.

Claim 39 performs processing of claim 9.

Claim 40 performs processing of claim 12.

Claim 41 corresponds to claim 20 and should be cancelled.

Claim 42 performs processing steps (c-2), (c-3) in claim 15.

Claim 43 relates to claim 26.

Claim 44 performs processing steps (c-1) to (c-7) in claim 19.

Claim 45 depends from any one of claims 37, 38, 41-44, among which dependency from claim 41 should be cancelled.

Claims 46, 47 depend from any one of claims 29, 31, 33, 34, 36, 37, 40-44, among which dependency from claims 31 and 41 should be cancelled.

Claim 48 defines a program for performing the processing of claim 4.

Claim 49 defines a program for performing the processing in claim 6.

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Claim 50 defines a program for performing the processing in claim 7.

Claim 51 defines a program for performing the processing in claim 12.

Claim 52 defines a program for performing the processing in claim 14.

Claim 53 defines a program for performing the processing in claim 15.

Claim 54 defines a program for performing the processing in claim 17.

Claim 55 defines a program for performing the processing in claim 18.

Claims 56, 57, 58 should be cancelled.

Claims 59, 60, 61, 62 should exclude dependency from claim 56.

Claim 63 defines a program for performing the processing in claim 4.

Claim 64 defines a program for performing the processing in claim 6.

Claim 65 defines a program for performing the processing in claim 7.

Claim 66 defines a program for performing the processing in claim 8.

Claim 67 defines a program for performing the processing in claim 9.

Claim 68 defines a program for performing the processing in claim 10.

Claim 69 defines a program for performing the processing in claim 11.

Claim 70 defines a program for performing the processing in claim 12.

Claim 71 defines a program for performing the processing in claim 13.

Claim 72 defines a program for performing the processing in claim 14.

Claim 73 defines a program for performing the processing in claim 15.

Claim 74 defines a program for performing the processing in claim 16.

Claim 75 defines a program for performing the processing in claim 17.

Claim 76 defines a program for performing the processing in claim 18.

Claim 77 defines a program for performing the processing in claim 19.

Claims 78-81 and 85 should be cancelled.

Claims 82, 83, 84 should exclude dependency from claim 78.

Claim 86 defines a system in which the method of claim 1 is performed.

Claim 87 defines a system in which the method of claim 5 is performed.

Claim 88 defines a system in which the method of claim 3 is performed.

Claim 89 defines a system in which the method of claim 4 is performed.

Claim 90 defines a system in which the method of claim 6 is performed.

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Claim 91 defines a system in which the method of claim 12 is performed.

Claim 92 should be cancelled.

Claim 93 defines a system in which the method of claim 16 is performed.

Claim 94 defines a system in which the method of claim 17 is performed.

Claims 95, 96, 97 should exclude dependency from claim 92.

In summary, it is requested that the following claims be examined in the present application and the examiner is requested to contact the attorney of record so that the proposed cancellation and amendment of dependencies may be authorized for an Examiner's Amendment prior to the first Office Action:

Claims 1-19.

Claims 24-27 each excluding the dependency from claim 20.

Claims 28-32 and 34-36.

Claims 37-40 and 42-45.

Claims 46, 47 each excluding the dependency from claims 37 and 40.

Claims 48-55.

Claims 59-62 each excluding the dependency from claim 56.

Claims 63-77.

Claims 82, 83, 84, each excluding the dependency from claim 78.

Claims 86-91, 93, 94.

Claims 95, 96, 97 each excluding the dependency from claim 92.

Claims 20-23, 33, 41, 56-58, 78-81, 85, and 92 are cancelled.

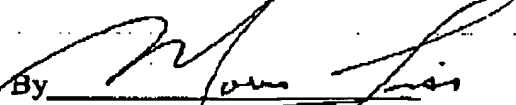
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Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 20162-00561-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: April 23, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By
Morris Liss

Registration No.: 24,510

CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP

1990 M Street, N.W., Suite 800

Washington, DC 20036-3425

(202) 331-7111

(202) 293-6229 (Fax)

Attorney for Applicant